

## **DHS Report to the Child Welfare Advisory Committee (CWAC)**

September 8, 2008

The following are update items that may be of the greatest interest to the committee. For each of these items the committee may want to discuss how they want to be updated or engaged.

### **Shelter Care Emergency Services**

- In Senate File 2425 (the SFY 2009 appropriation) the Department was directed to work with the Coalition for Family and Children's Services in Iowa and other shelter representatives to reduce the number of guaranteed payment emergency juvenile shelter care beds and shift a portion of available funding to develop new or expand existing child welfare emergency services for children who might otherwise be served in shelter care. The amount the Department has spent on guaranteed payment but unused beds has increased annually from just over \$1 million in SFY 2006 to \$2.34 million in SFY 2008.
- Meetings have been held in seven of the eight DHS Service. Meeting attendees have varied across the service areas but collectively they have included shelter representatives, Empowerment/Decat staff, Chief Juvenile Court Officers and juvenile court services and DHS staff, one tribal/family liaison, FSRP providers, detention facility staff, public defenders, and other community services providers. Others invited but not attending in all areas included law enforcement personnel, county Boards of Supervisors, mental health agencies, and United Way.
- There are no proposals or plans finalized at this point. Each service area that intends to submit a proposal will do so by October 1, 2008. DHS will review proposals and those approved will work with shelters to amend their contracts.

### **Provider Training Appropriation**

- SF 2425 (Section 9, subsection 20“c”[6]). “Of the state share of any funds remitted to the medical assistance program pursuant to a contract with a third party to administer behavioral health services under the medical assistance program, the following amounts are appropriated to the department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, and ending June 30, 2009, to be used as follows . . . For training for child welfare services providers, \$250,000. The training shall be developed by the department in collaboration with the coalition for children and family services in Iowa.”
- DHS intent to contract with Coalition for Children and Family Services in Iowa to administer. Initial meeting between DHS and Coalition representatives held September 4, 2008 to develop contract scope of work.
- The committee met on September 4, 2008 to outline the contracting, scope of work, performance measures and budget process over the next couple of months.
  - Will coordinate with the plan and funding with the joint training initiative between providers and DHS staff.
  - Supervisor training as well as staff training is included.

### **Legislation on Options for Growth Mechanism for Provider Reimbursement**

- SF 2425 (Section 16, subsection 24). "The department shall develop options for providing a growth mechanism for reimbursement of the child and family services traditionally funded under this appropriation. The growth mechanism options may provide for a tie to allowable growth for school aid, an inflationary adjustment reflective of the cost increases for the services, or other reasonable proxy for the cost increases affecting such service providers."
- Initial meeting between DHS and provider representatives September 5, 2008.

### **Community Care Contract**

- DHS is required to re-procure the contract for Community Care this year.
- Intent to issue draft of request for proposal (RFP) for public comment in September 2008; it will be posted for 45 days then removed to be finalized. The final version will be posted approximately January 2009 with applications due in April and the contract to begin July 1, 2009.

### **DHS SFY 2010 Budget Request**

- Budget will be public and posted on DHS website sometime week of September 8, 2008.
- Council hearing and decision making on the budget September 16 and 17, 2008.

### **Children's Bureau Quality Improvement Center on Privatization of Child Welfare**

- Five-year project at University of Kentucky and Learning Technology funded by federal government
- Purpose to build knowledge and inform decision-making regarding public/private partnership in child welfare.
- National summit in September 2008 that will be attended by representative of DHS (Margaret Wright) and one of our Safety Plan/FSRP contractors (Anne Gruenewald from Four Oaks and Iowa Kids Net). Information will be shared with CWAC subcommittee on provider capacity.